

# Pest Update (May 26, 2010)

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## Available on the net at:

<http://sdda.sd.gov/Forestry/Educational-Information/PestAlert-Archives.aspx>

Any treatment recommendations, including those identifying specific pesticides, are for the convenience of the reader. Pesticides mentioned in this publication are generally those that are most commonly available to the public in South Dakota and the inclusion of a product shall not be taken as an endorsement or the exclusion a criticism regarding effectiveness. Please read and follow all label instructions and the label is the final authority for a product's use on a particular pest or plant. Products requiring a commercial pesticide license are occasionally mentioned if there are limited options available. These products will be identified as such but it is the reader's responsibility to determine if they can legally apply any product identified in this publication.

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## Plant development for the growing season

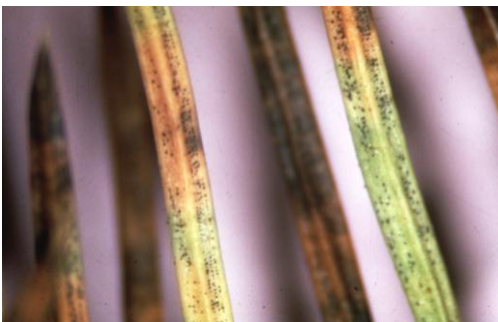
The plant development is beginning to slow with our lilacs now in full bloom and our pagoda dogwoods and hawthorns beginning to flower. We are even becoming a little behind from where we should be for an “average” year.

## Treatments to do now



**Clearwing ash borer** treatments with a permethrin product can be applied now. These chemicals are applied as trunk sprays along the lower 10 feet of the trunk and should *not* be applied as soil drenches. The borers are beginning to fly as evident by the pencil size holes along the trunks of infested ash trees. The holes may have pupal skins still attached to them. The first flights are typically males with the females beginning to fly and lay eggs about

a week from now so there is still time to spray.



The candles are expanding on the spruce so it is time to apply a fungicide to protect against **rhizosphaera needlecast**. This is one of the most common foliage diseases of blue spruce. The disease causes the older foliage to turn yellow by midsummer and then purplish-brown. Usually small black fruit bodies can be found in the spring lining the stomata along the needles. The

disease results in premature needle drop and a thin and discolored canopy. The disease can be managed by an application of chlorothalonil now and a second application in about two weeks.

**Codling moth** treatment time is upon us as the adult moths will be out laying eggs soon. Once the eggs hatch the larvae will burrow into the newly forming apple, usually near the base of the fruit, resulting in a trail through the apple filled with brown, powdery frass. Treatment is usually Malathion applications, though there is much evidence that carbaryl (Sevin) provides better control, beginning about 10 days after petal fall with three more applications spaced about 10 days apart. The other option is **bagging the individual apples** using the Japanese fruit bags when the apples reach about ½-inch diameter. This is no guarantee of control as the fruit may become infested before that size but they do provide reasonable control of this pest and many others as well as improve the shine to

the fruit. The bags may be obtained from Gardens Alive! at [www.gardensalive.com](http://www.gardensalive.com).

## Current concerns



**I have had lots of calls concerning the large seed crops on silver maples and Siberian elms this spring.** The silver maple samaras, those little ‘helicopters’ that are twisting their way to the ground, are a common occurrence every spring. However, this year there was an abundant crop and now that the seeds have fallen, people are noticing a gap in foliage just below the leaves at the shoot tips. This gap was where the flowers were located and does

not represent a problem. The same is true of the Siberian elms (*Ulmus pumila*) trees that are also producing a huge crop of rounded samaras (see above picture). Again, this is normal and not a cause for concern.



**Another common concern at this time of year is the small “bumps” that appear at the base of the pine candles.** These bumps are the pollen cones and if you touch them a fine yellow dust will disperse from the cones. This is normal at this time of year and often people living beneath large pine trees will find their decks and drives covered with a fine dust in the morning.



**Why is the ground so sticky beneath my trees?** This is a common question during the last week. The stickiness is honeydew being excreted by aphids and soft scales feeding in the tree. These insects ingest large quantities of sap and excrete almost as much. This substance is rich in sugars and is even “harvested” from the aphids by ants, so it is common to see these insects associated with honeydew. The control of aphids and soft

scales is often accomplished by a soil drench of an insecticide containing imidacloprid but this will often take 30 days before uptake is sufficient enough to provide control.

## E-samples



**I received a picture of peach leaf curl (*Tapharina deformans*).** This is a disease that appears if the spring is cool with average to above average precipitation. Infected leaves develop wrinkles and often have a reddish cast to them. The disease only affects the young leaves as they expand in the spring and the foliage that forms after these leaves drop do not become infected. A single application of lime-sulfur made

in the fall after leaf drop or just before the buds expand in the spring. Do not use lime-sulfur once the buds start to expand or the tree is in leaf as the spray will injury the foliage. This treatment has limited effectiveness but fortunately the disease rarely appears in one location for several years in a row.



**Another common sample at this time of year is crown rust (*Puccinia coronata*) showing up on common buckthorn.** The disease can infect several cereal crops as well as grasses in the alternate stage but is most commonly seen as the orange dots on the leaves of the buckthorn. Since buckthorn is not a desirable shrub, the disease does not have any controls but since the plant is so common it is a frequent sample.

## Samples received

Clay County  
tree?

**What is causing these bumps on Howard's plum**

The spindly bumps on the upper surface of the plum leaves are due to the feeding by a small eriophyid mite. There are a number of different species of mites that cause these galls to form on plums, elms, and maples among other tree species. There are no effective controls for these mites but fortunately they do not harm the plant, only its appearance.

Clay County

**What is the problem with my dogwoods? They were planted about a month ago and many of the leaves dried out.**

This is most likely due to transplant shock. Dogwoods are noted for preferring moist soils and they often perform poorly on dry sites. They do need a lot of water to become established and perhaps they were not watered enough. I recommend watering them several times a week and see how they continue to leaf out this season.

Faulk County

**Do these young blue spruce have needlecast disease?**

Yes, the purplish needles were covered with the fruiting structure of this very common disease of spruce. There is more information on controlling this disease in the first section of this Update.

Grant County

**What is wrong with this ash tree? It is dropping all its leaves.**

This is due to the fungal disease, ash anthracnose, which has been so much in the news this last two weeks (and in last week's Update). Many of the ash trees across eastern South Dakota and Minnesota have been dropping small leaves that often have blemishes or distortions due to the infection. It is too late to treat for the disease, nor is treatment usually recommended. The disease rarely causes any serious problems for the tree and most recover and produce a new set of leaves by early June.

Haakon/Jackson Counties **What is wrong with the leaves on this cherry?**

This resembles the symptoms of peach leaf curl (see under e-samples in the issue). Cherries are also prone to a number of leaf curl diseases. The control is similar, a lime sulfur application made at bud swell so control is too late for this season.

Haakon/Jackson Counties **Is this Chinese elm dying from Dutch elm disease?**

What is typically called a Chinese elm in South Dakota is actually the Siberian elm, a completely different elm species. Neither tree species is usually affected by Dutch elm disease. The Siberian elm, while a hardy tree is still not well-adapted to South Dakota, particularly West River and it is easy to find these trees in various stages of dieback and decline. The long-term drought is one factor in their decline but the other is the introduction of the banded elm bark beetle. This small boring beetle is particularly attracted to Siberian elms and I can easily find elms infested by this insect in the western part of the state. The samples were too small to detect the beetle. You need to look at the trunk and there you should find numerous small round holes coming through the bark. The best control is to remove and destroy infested trees.

Haakon County

**Plant identification?**

I received a sample of a flowering plum but no note attached to it, so perhaps this was for identification only.

Lake County

**What is wrong with our tree? The bark is falling off of it.**

This is one of the red leaf cultivars of Norway maple and none are well adapted to our state. They often suffer winter injury. This injury results in branch dieback and even portions of the trunk. There is nothing that can be done to prevent this from occurring.